An original learning game by Natalie Jesdale, M.S. Ed.

THE GREAT MAINE TO CALIFORNIA RACE is a geography game. You will be asked questions during the game about state capitals, comparative sizes and populations, boundaries, important geographic features, nicknames, and other interesting facts concerning each of the fifty states of the United States. Your spelling should improve since you must correctly spell the name of the state your dragster enters.

The object of the game is to move your dragster from Maine across the United States and reach California first! Each race involves two players; one may be the computer. Each player, in turn, must answer questions about the state in which his dragster is located. A correct answer moves the dragster westward. An incorrect answer moves the dragster backward. Correctly answered random bonus questions can move you ahead one state.

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Ages 10 and up

Required Hardware

Commodore 64, 1541 disk drive, and TV set (or monitor and 5-Pin DIN audio cable).

Number of Players

Two, or one against the computer.

Making Back-up Copies

For your convenience, your program has not been copy protected. We suggest that you follow the instructions in your Commodore 64 User's Guide to make a back-up copy of the program for your personal use.*

Getting Started

1. Be sure your computer is turned OFF.
2. Turn on the disk drive. The red error light comes on briefly; the green light indicates that power to the drive is on.
3. When the red error light on the disk drive goes out, open the drive door. Insert the disk with the label facing up and close the door.
4. Turn on the TV or monitor, then turn on the computer. *It is important that the computer be turned on last.*
5. As soon as you see the word READY on the screen, type LOAD "*", 8 and press the RETURN key. The screen displays the message SEARCHING FOR *, followed by the word LOADING.
6. When the word READY reappears on the screen, type RUN and press RETURN.

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You are now ready to play THE GREAT MAINE TO CALIFORNIA RACE.

The title screen will appear on your monitor for a few moments, followed by these directions:

1. Type "N" if you are playing for the first time or you need more detailed instructions.
2. Type "Y" if you wish to skip the additional instructions.

Do NOT press the RETURN key.

If you type "N", you will be given more detailed instructions. When you are ready, press any key to get instructions for playing against a friend or the computer.

The next screen will have the message:

PLAYER 1, PLEASE TYPE YOUR NAME.

Player 1 (Bill, for example) enter your name using up to 10 letters. Next press the RETURN key. If you use too many letters, the message SORRY, PLEASE USE FEWER THAN 10 LETTERS will appear. Try again and be sure to use fewer than 10 letters this time.

After you type in your name, press the RETURN key. The following message will appear on your screen:

BILL, IF YOU WISH TO PLAY AGAINST THE COMPUTER,
PLEASE TYPE "YES".

IF THERE ARE TWO PLAYERS, PRESS THE RETURN KEY.

If you type "YES" then press the RETURN key, the computer (named ROBYTE) will be set to play against you.

If you press only the RETURN key, the screen will display the message:

PLAYER 2, PLEASE TYPE YOUR NAME.

PLAYER 2 (Liz, for example) enter your name (using fewer than 10 letters) and press the RETURN key. At this point, you may still play against the computer by typing ROBYTE.

While the game is loading, the postal abbreviations for the 50 states will be shown on the screen. See how many of the states you can name before the files are loaded. However, do not type any of the state names.

Playing the Game

PLAYER 1

The map of Maine and the following message will appear on your screen:

BILL, YOU MUST ANSWER 2 QUESTIONS CORRECTLY
TO LEAVE MAINE.

In a moment, a map of Maine, a dragster, your name, and a multiple choice question about Maine with three possible answers will be displayed on the screen.

Type the number that corresponds to the choice which you think is the correct answer to the question asked. You may change a choice by pressing the INST/DEL key and typing a new number. Be sure to press the RETURN key when you are satisfied with your choice.

If you have pressed any key other than "1", "2", or "3", the computer will tell you to TRY AGAIN, then reprint the question and choices for you.

If you answer correctly, the dragster will move ahead in Maine. If your answer is incorrect, a sound will beep and you will be given the correct answer. On your next turn, you will have another chance to move out of Maine.

It is now your opponent's turn.

Playing Against Another Person

PLAYER 2

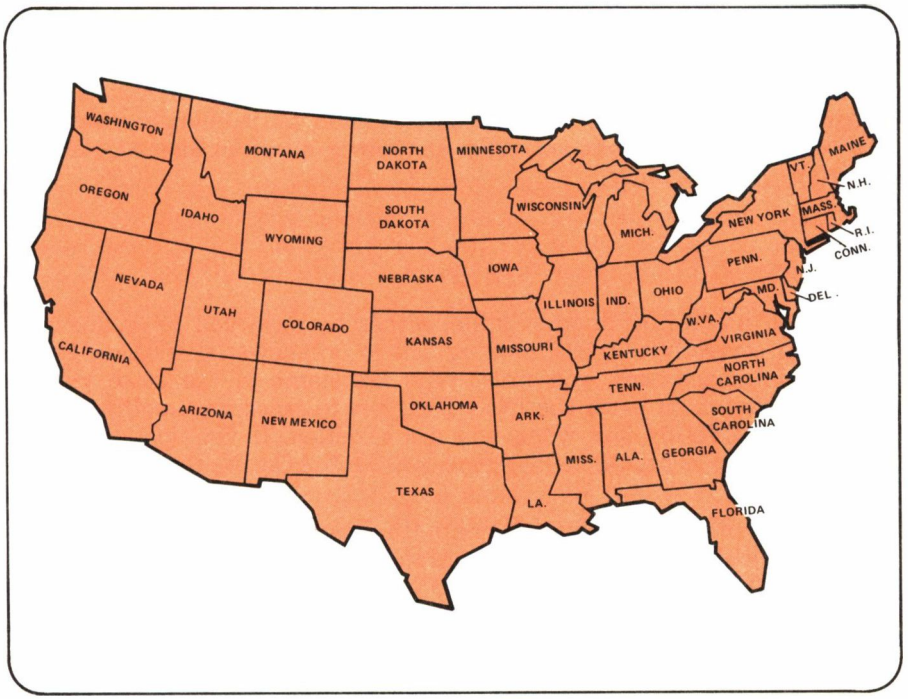
A map of Maine and the following message are displayed:

LIZ, YOU MUST ANSWER 2 QUESTIONS CORRECTLY
TO LEAVE MAINE.

In a few seconds the screen will display the map of Maine, the dragster, a different multiple choice question about Maine with three possible answers, and your name.

Type the number that corresponds to the choice that you think is the answer to the question asked. You may change your choice by pressing the INST/DEL key and typing a new number. Press the RETURN key when you are satisfied with your choice.

If you typed any key other than "1", "2", or "3", the computer will tell you to TRY AGAIN, then reprint the question and choices for you.



If you are right, the dragster will move ahead in Maine. If you are wrong, a sound will beep and you are given the correct answer.

Player 1's turn now proceeds as before.

Playing Against Robyte

If your opponent is ROBYTE (the computer), it will take PLAYER 2's turn.

A map of Maine and the following message will be shown on your screen:

ROBYTE, YOU MUST ANSWER 2 QUESTIONS
TO LEAVE MAINE.

Then the map of Maine, a dragster, a different multiple choice question with three possible answers, and the name ROBYTE appears on the screen.

ROBYTE will answer its own question (correctly, of course) and the dragster will move ahead in Maine.

PLAYER 1's turn now proceeds as before.

Players continue taking turns in this fashion until one player reaches California. If that player correctly answers a question about California, he or she is the winner!

Entering A Different State

When you move into another state, either because you have answered questions correctly and are moving ahead or answered incorrectly and are moving backward, you must type the name of the state you are entering. You must press the INST/DEL key to erase any spelling errors. Press the RETURN key when you are satisfied. If you spell the name incorrectly, the computer will tell you to TRY AGAIN. Retype the name of the state.

The screen will then display your name, a dragster, the state's map, and a question about it. Type in your selection for the correct answer and press RETURN. You will move ahead or be given the correct answer. It is now your opponent's turn.

State Questions

The size of the state determines the number of questions it takes to get the dragster through.

You must correctly answer one question to get through the smaller states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

You must correctly answer three questions to move through the larger states: Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and Wyoming.

You will need to correctly answer two questions to move through the rest of the states.

When you answer a question incorrectly, on your next turn you will move back in that state or to a state further east. If you move back into a different state, you need to answer only one question correctly, regardless of the state's size, before proceeding.

Bonus Questions

During the course of the game, bonus questions are asked randomly about Alaska and Hawaii. For example, at the beginning of Bill's turn the screen might display the message BONUS BILL BONUS, followed by a map of either Alaska or Hawaii and a question.

If you answer the question incorrectly, you proceed with your regular turn. If you answer the question correctly, you move ahead from your present position to a new state, and you are asked a question about that state. The game then continues as before.

ROBYTE (the computer) is never offered any bonus questions, so you may still beat it in spite of its consistently correct answers!

Special Instructions

Each time you give the computer a command (such as entering a number or spelling the name of a state), you must press the RETURN key. This indicates to the computer you are satisfied with what you have typed. There is one exception to this rule. It occurs in the beginning when directions for playing the game are on the screen and you are requested to type "Y" or "N" depending on whether or not you wish more detailed directions. At that point you must type ONLY "Y" or "N". Do not press the RETURN key.

If you type a key while the cursor is not on the screen (for example, while a file is being loaded) that character will appear on the screen as your next answer. However, as long as you haven't pressed the RETURN key, you can press the INST/DEL key and type what you wish. If you have already pressed the RETURN key, you will be told to TRY AGAIN. The necessary information for taking your turn will reappear on your monitor.

In the center is a map of the United States. It is included to help you plan strategy. Check the map when you have a choice about which state to enter next. Use the map to help answer questions, judge the comparative sizes of the states and see which states border one another.

If you wish to play again after a player has won the race, just type RUN and the game will restart.

Now that you've learned a lot about the geography of the United States, try some other educational software from Hayden.

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